

Message Text

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17

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

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FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1855

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TRIPOLI 0028

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR LY EG

SUBJECT: LIBYA OFFERS ECONOMIC HELP TO THE "EGYPTIAN MASSES"

REF: TRIPOLI 0004

1. THE FIRST PUBLIC LIBYAN ATTEMPT TO EXPLOIT THE RECENT CAIRO DISTURBANCES TAKES THE FORM OF AN AUTHORITATIVE EDITORIAL IN THE CONTROLLED LIBYA PRESS JANUARY 8. SOUNDING VERY MUCH LIKE URIAH HEEP, THE EDITORIALIST DECLARES THAT LIBYA FEELS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SAD PLIGHT OF THE EGYPTIAN MASSES. "RECENT EVENTS" (I.E. THE CAIRO DISTURBANCES) HAVE EXPOSED THE EVIL ATTEMPTS (BY PERSONS UNNAMED) TO CAUSE EGYPTIAN MASSES TO RETREAT FROM THEIR HARD-WON GAINS BEFORE FEUDALISM AND EXPLOITATION. WHAT DO THOSE PEOPLE WHO SIT IN FANCY OFFICES KNOW OF THE SUFFERING OF THE PEOPLE? "THEY DO NOT BREATHE THE ODOR OF SWEAT IN FACTORIES, AND THEIR HANDS HAVE NOT STRETCHED DOWN TO TOUCH THE EARTH. THEY HAVE PROMISED AND LIED, AND THEIR PROMISES WERE MIRAGES. THEY SPOKE OF OPENING (INFITAH) AND CALLED FOR IT. THEY WROTE OF VAST LOANS . . . WHERE ARE THE MILLIONS, THE BILLIONS, WHICH THEY FILLED THE SKY WITH TALK OF

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.... LIBYA, THE EDITORIALIST GOES ON TO SAY, WILL

DO ITS DUTY TO THE EGYPTIAN MASSES, AND IN LIGHT OF AN ECONOMIC SITUATION IN EGYPT WHICH IS NOT THE FAULT OF THE EGYPTIAN PEOPLE, LIBYA WILL UNDERTAKE A "REVOLUTIONARY INITIATIVE" TO LIGHTEN THE BURDENS OF THE MASSES.

2. COMMENT: THE OPENLY INSULTING TONE OF THE EDITORIAL INDICATES THAT QADHAFI, TIRED OF WAITING FOR A SUMMIT WITH SADAT, HAS NOT BEEN ABLE RESIST THE TEMPTATION TO TAKE PROPAGANDA ADVANTAGE OF THE CAIRO RIOTS. JUST WHAT HIS "REVOLUTIONARY INITIATIVE" WILL PROVE TO BE REMAINS TO BE SEEN.
STEIN

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